

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /007 W
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P 091733Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8033

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15574

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, WFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 5-16, 1974

EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS FROM AMBASSADOR MARTIN

1. I ASSUME THAT STATEMENT IN SECRETARY'S SPEECH THAT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SHOULD STUDY FINANCIAL NEEDS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES TO IMPORT FOOD DOES NOT DEPEND ON ACTION BY EFC IN FORMAL RESOLUTION BUT AT MOST MIGHT BE REFERRED TO IN FINAL REPORT.

2. I ALSO ASSUME THAT SAME TREATMENT CAN BE APPLIED TO PROPOSAL THAT CG FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT SET UP FOOD AID SUBCOMMITTEE. SEEMS LIKELY TO BE ADVANTAGES IN LETTING TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION OF THAT GROUP TO CG.

3. I ALSO ASSUME THAT STATEMENT THAT US WILL CALL EXPORTERS TO MEETING IN WASHINGTON TO SET UP EXPORTERS PRODUCTION PLANNING GROUP LEAVES INITIATIVE IN HANDS OF US AND NOT OF WFC. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY OTHER PARTICIPANTS SO FAR LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC AND AT LEAST CANADIANS GETTING STEADY STREAM OF CABLES ATTACKING IDEA AS "EXPORTERS CARTEL." THEIR POSITION WOULD BE HELPED IF OCCASION COULD BE FOUND TO EXPAND ON FUNCTIONS TO COVER NOT ONLY PRODUCTION PROMOTION BUT ALSO ASSURING ADEQUATE GRAIN SUPPLIES WILL BE ON HAND TO MEET URGENT NEEDS UNTIL ADEQUATE RESERVES ARE BUILT UP. ARGENTINES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROACHED YET IN VIEW OF THEIR LEADING POSITION IN AGGRESSIVE WING OF 77. SEEMED BEST TO GET AUSTRALIA AND CANADA ON BOARD FIRST. BELIEVE PRESENT SITUATION PRECLUDES ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE FOR FIRST MEETING AND LIST OF ACCEPT-
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ANCES BEFORE CONCLUSION WFC. ONLY CHANCE LIES IN MAJOR EFFORT

IN CAPITALS.

4. PLEASE CONFIRM OR CORRECT. BELL CONCURS IN PARA 3. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME15574
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740323-0696
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741156/aaaabvot.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <31 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 5-16, 1974 EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS FROM AMBASSADOR MARTIN
TAGS: OCON
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005